

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 7458

PASS S/IL AND LABOR DEPARTMENT FOR SEGALL AND PERSONS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ILO, ELAB, SP

SUBJ: SPANISH WITHDRAWAL FROM ILO HIGHLY UNLIKELY

REF: GENEVA 7917

1. LABATT HAD CONVERSATION WITH ENRIQUE LEON, DIRECTOR
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS FOR GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED SPANISH
SYNDICAL ORGANIZATION (SSO), DURING WHICH ILO WAS DISCUSSED.
LEON, WHO IS FORMER SPANISH LABOR ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON,
PLAYS IMPORTANT ROLE IN SPANISH ILO MATTERS SINCE SSO PRO-
VIDES BOTH SPANISH WORKER AND EMPLOYER DELEGATES TO ILO,
AND SINCE HE IS MEMBER OF INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE OF
REPRESENTATIVES FROM SSO, LABOR MINISTRY, AND FOREIGN
MINISTRY WHICH ESTABLISHED SPANISH ILO POLICY.

2. LABATT SAID HE HAD HEARD RUMOR GOS MIGHT BE CONSID-
ERING POSSIBILITY OF ALSO WITHDRAWING FROM ILO IN WAKE OF
POSSIBLE U.S. NOTICE OF INTENT TO WITHDRAW. LEON
REACTION WITH SURPRISE, STATED THIS POSSIBILITY HAS NEVER
BEEN CONSIDERED IN SPANISH INTERMINISTERIAL COMMITTEE
WHICH SETS ILO POLICY. HE COULD NOT FORESEE ANY CIRCUM-
STANCES IN WHICH SPAIN WOULD WITHDRAW FROM ILO. BARRING THE
UNLIKELY POSSIBILITY OF WHOLESALE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL WESTERN
EUROPEAN COUNTRIES. HE ADDED GOS RECOGNIZES ADVANTAGE
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CONTINUED GOS AND SSO PARTICIPATION IN ILO, DESPITE CRITICISM

TO WHICH THEY ARE SUBJECTED IN THAT BODY. LEON SAID SPANISH WITHDRAWAL IN THE WAKE OF POSSIBLE U.S. WITHDRAWAL WAS PARTICULARLY UNTHINKABLE, INASMUCH AS GOS ALREADY IS OFTEN ACCUSED IN SOME INTERNATINAL CIRCLES AS BEING SUBSERVIENT TO U.S.

3. COMMENT: JUDGING BY LEON'S COMMENTS, THE SUGGESTION OF SPANISH MISSION OFFICER IN GENEVA WAS LIKELY TO BE HIS OWN IDEA. THE POSITION OF THE SSO, WHICH IS INTERNATIONAL PARIAH SHUNNED BY INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION BODIES, WOULD APPEAR TO RENDER SPANISH ILO WITHDRAWAL EXTREMELY UNLIKELY.

ILO IS TOO ADVANTAGEOUS TO SSO AND GOS AS ONLY INTERNATIONAL

ORGANIZATION IN WHICH SSO IS ABLE PARTICIPATE. WITHDRAWAL MIGHT ALSO ENABLE CLANDESTINE SPANISH LABOR ORGANIZATIONS, SUCH AS COMMUNIST-MANIPULATED WORKERS COMMISSIONS AND SOCIALIST UGT WHO ALREADY HAVE THEIR OWN REPRESENTATIVES AT ILO ON WFTU AND ICFTU OBSERVER DELEGATIONS, TO RECEIVE RECOGNITION AS SPANISH WORKER DELEGATION IN PLACE OF THE SSO.

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